

REMARKS

Each independent claim has been amended to make it clearer that there are two pollings being performed. In a first polling, one NE polls its neighbor NE. In a second polling, the network management system (NMS) polls the NEs. Basis for this amendment can be found in the passage starting on page 11, line 23 and ending on page 12, line 21 of the PCT publication. This passage shows that the first polling is performed by a NE, and the second polling is performed by a NMS. Basis for the term “computerized network management system” can be found in the paragraph bridging pages 4-5 of the PCT publication.

Applicant noted that the Examiner is of the opinion that Dev discloses one NE polling another NE. It is respectfully submitted that this is not correct. Whether in the passages identified by the Examiner (i.e., col. 11, lines 17-22; lines 34-37 or col. 7, lines 34-39) or anywhere else in Dev’s disclosure, the process of polling is always disclosed in the context of a model representing device (i.e., part of the Network Management System) polling its corresponding device (i.e., a model polls a device, and not a device polling a linked device). The situation in which a NE polls another NE linked thereto is neither disclosed in, nor suggested by, Dev.

Walker discloses polling, but only in the context of a network management system (netmon) polling devices in the process of discovering the topology of the network. It is neither disclosed in, nor suggested by, Walker that one NE polls another NE.

Jain and Wu are not concerned with polling at all.

Since the invention is not disclosed in any of the prior art references relied upon by the Examiner, and since none of the possible combinations of the prior art would lead to the

invention, as recited in the amended independent claims, applicant believes that this application is now in order for allowance.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

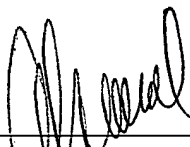
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

425 Fifth Avenue

New York, New York 10016-2223

Tel: (212) 697-3750

Fax: (212) 949-1690

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Israel', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alan Israel

Reg. No. 27,564